

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Finigan. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Finigan discusses pulse back cleaning systems [0007] and explains that known pulse back systems, because of “turbulence,” do not “lend to settling or migrating of particles downwardly to the hopper discharge port.” Finigan further notes [0009] that “reintrainment into the upstream feed air of dust which has become loosened during pulse-jet cleaning from adjacent bags markedly reduces efficiency of the operation.”

Accordingly, Finigan positively teaches [0010] the use of “partitions or walls which extend from the tube sheet of the collector unit to at least near the bottom of the bags to form a separate cell for containing each group.” Thus, each cell can “achieve a state of quiescence when a flow control damper or valve means closes off communication of the cell with the clean air (filtered) exhaust plenum.”

Finigan further notes [0011] that “the main suction fan of the bag house is used to simultaneously provide the reverse cleaning air flow along with its main function as the system air moving device.” However, as seen in Figures 3A, 5 and 6, the air in cell #3 is being packed by the fan. Two valves, “a flow control damper or valve means” and “another damper or valve means” are used, one to “achieve a state of quiescence” and the other to “connect the bags and cell to a steady stream of bag cleaning air at ambient pressure . . .”[0010]. For example, as seen in Fig. 3A, dampers 66 and 68 convert the fan from a vacuum to a blower for the cell being cleaned.

Applicant’s claimed invention (claims 1 and 10) is not concerned with creating a non-turbulent atmosphere in which particles “settle” or “migrate” during pulse back. Applicant’s

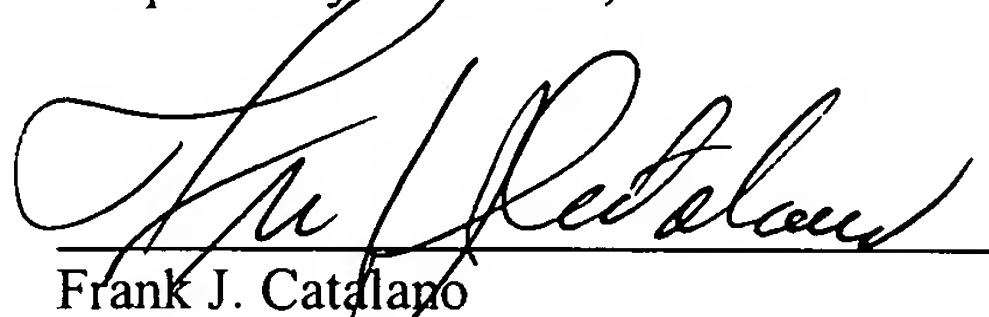
claimed invention does not prevent the occurrence of "reintrainment" of the back-pulsed particles. Applicant's claimed invention does not have "partitions" to separate the cells so as to enable "settling" or "migration" and to prevent "reintrainment." Applicant does not flip-flop between vacuuming and blowing. Applicant always uses the vacuum in a turbulent configuration retraining particles from filter to filter.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 10 to clarify that the claimed pulse back path uses the vacuum sucking through the normally operating filters so that ambient air is also sucked by the vacuum through the pulse back operating filter. This is precisely what Finigen is trying to avoid and it cannot be said that Finigan renders obvious the very thing Finigan is teaching against.

Claims 2-9 and 11-18 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicant believes that, based on the above amendments and arguments, claims 1 and 10 are allowable and, if allowed, claims 2-9 and 11-18 would be allowable without amendment because they are now based on an allowed base claim.

It is understood there is no fee due at this time. However, should a fee deficiency have occurred, please charge Deposit Account No. 50-1971 per 37 C.F.R. § 1.25.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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